

MAG Human Services Committees
Annual Advance
Meeting Minutes
Flinn Foundation
January 31, 2002

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Dennis Cahill, Councilmember of Tempe
Margot Cordova, Valley of the Sun United Way
*Debra Detterman, City of Mesa
*Joan Ellis, RIS Blind Services
*Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Kristin Greene, City of Avondale
Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
*Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
*Doug Lingner, Councilmember of Phoenix
Marie Lopez-Rogers, Vice Mayor of Avondale
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
*Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Manuel Martinez, Council member of Glendale, Chairman
Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging
Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
*Diane Mullin, City of Glendale
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Robert Pettycrew, Councilmember of Scottsdale
Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network
Terrance Scott, DES/ACYF
*Joan Shafer, Mayor of Surprise
*Dick Sousa, Council member of Goodyear
*Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Rebecca Van Marter, The Community Forum
Claudia Walters, Councilmember of Mesa
*Phillip Westbrooks, Councilmember of Chandler
Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor, Maricopa County
Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council
Neal Young, City of Phoenix

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dan Anderson, DES
Elizabeth Hudgins, Childrens Action Alliance
Suzanne Quigley, MAG Staff
Brande Mead, MAG Staff
Mary Thomson, MAG Staff

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by Chairman, Councilmember Manuel Martinez. He thanked everyone for attending. He also reviewed the goals and outcomes for today's Advance which included nominating a new slate of officers for next years Human Services Coordinating and Technical Committees.

He then reviewed the recommendations presented by the Ad Hoc Structure Group at the last meeting on December 13, 2001. The overall Committee voted to reinstate the two committee structure – a Coordinating and Technical Committee.

The Coordinating Committee will meet quarterly while the Technical Committee meets monthly. Today, the Committee will vote for Chair and Vice Chair of the Coordinating Committee and a Chair and Vice Chair of the Technical Committee. There will also be an

Executive Committee for the Coordinating Committee to meet in between quarterly meetings on pressing issues that arise over the year.

Chairman Martinez highlighted the needs assessment exercise in the meeting packet and asked Rebecca Van Marter to provide members with instructions for completing the worksheet for the break out session later in the day.

Jeannie Jertson requested to make a special announcement before moving on with the meeting. On behalf of the entire Committee, Ms. Jertson recognized Chairman Martinez for his valuable contribution as Chairman of the Human Services Committee over the past two years. She provided Chairman Martinez with a plaque of appreciation.

Chairman Martinez thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve. He reiterated that the Committee has its work cut out for it more than ever due to impending budget cuts and the state of the economy.

2. Election of New Officers

Chairman Martinez stated that an ad hoc nominating committee met since our last meeting to develop recommendations for officers for next years Committee. Chairman Martinez began with announcing the nominees for Chair and Vice Chair of next years Coordinating Committee. Councilmember Robert Pettycrew was selected as the nominee for next years Chair of the Coordinating Committee and Councilmember Dennis Cahill was nominated for Vice Chair. Chairman Martinez opened the floor up for discussion and a motion to approve the nominees for next years Coordinating Committee Officers. Neil Young motioned to approve and Vice Mayor Lopez-Rogers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Next Chairman Martinez put forth nominations for the Executive Committee – Supervisor Wilcox and Vice Mayor Lopez-Rogers. Councilmember Pettycrew motioned to approve the nominees for executive committee and Wayne Tormala seconded the motion. Sandra Reagan was nominated for Chair of Technical Committee and Connie James was nominated as Vice Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Martinez thanked everyone for their participation and commitment to the work of the Committee and also acknowledged MAG Staff for their hard work. Chairman Martinez completed his term by passing the gavel to newly elected Chair, Councilmember Pettycrew.

Chairman Pettycrew asked everyone to note the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year and highlighted that the Coordinating Committee will meet quarterly while the Technical Committee will meet monthly. Chairman Pettycrew mentioned that we need to make every attempt to attend meetings regularly and to do outreach to communities to increase public input in our Committee process.

3. Presentations

Economic Indicators, Dan Anderson, Department of Economic Security (DES)

Dan Anderson, Research Analyst from DES was introduced to speak about the economy's affect on the state of Human Services. Highlights of his presentation focused on the following:

- Unemployment
- Unemployment Insurance Claims
- Job Growth

- How to respond to a changing economy

Unemployment 1970- 2001

Historically, Arizona's economy has more dips and surges than the national level. This can be attributed to the dependence on tourism and other types of industries that are related to seasonal work. However, unlike past recessions the economic expansion has lasted for longer periods of time while the economic slow downs have lasted for shorter periods of time.

Currently, the unemployment rate is at 5.4% a rise from under 3% in 2000. However, much lower than during the recession of the 1970's when the unemployment rate was almost 14%.

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance premiums have doubled in the last year to almost \$30M per month.

Job Growth 1970-2001

Arizona and Phoenix have done better in job growth than the national average. However, Arizona has done worse than the national average in times of downturn. Arizona has experienced significant job growth compared to the rest of the nation. People still tend to move to Arizona in spite of the decrease in job growth.

Job growth projections before September 11th were projected to be around 3% but since the tragedy they are now under 1%.

Arizona has experienced 4 months of job loss compared to last year. In the early 90's recession there was only 1 month recorded of job loss. It has been over 20 years since this much job loss has occurred.

How to respond to a changing economy

- The primary indicator that will begin to change the economy is consumer confidence
- Most national forecasts predict a short national recession
- We are currently into about 9 months of the projected 16 month recessionary period
- Inflation and interest rates will probably remain low
- Military spending is not likely to stimulate the economy

Mr. Anderson opened it up for questions from members after completing his presentation.

Wayne Tormala inquired about what types of jobs are available that low-income people can apply for. Mr. Anderson stated that the industries that do not show a decline in job creation are health care and retail trade.

However, with the increase in lay-offs there are higher qualified applicants competing for lower paying jobs.

Ms. Jeanne Jertson inquired into a new federal data source being proposed instead of the census data collection every ten years.

Mr. Anderson reported that there is a new type of data collection called the American Community Survey (ACS). This will be a supplemental source of data to the census because it will enable statistics to be available more quickly. However, it will require hundreds of millions of dollars to develop a system that would more regularly provide accurate numbers in between the census count.

Ms. Margo Cordova stated that the 2000 census numbers reflect a strong economy since it was taken before the recession and September 11th. Mr. Anderson agreed and stated that the ACS will provide more accurate figures on a yearly basis. He stated that Congress should be deciding to fund the ACS by October 2002.

Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox inquired whether census numbers included undocumented workers. Mr. Anderson stated that they do. Census takers do not inquire about residency.

The Self Sufficiency Standard – Elizabeth Hudgins, Children's Action Alliance

Elizabeth Hudgins stated that the Children's Action Alliance is developing an Arizona Self Sufficiency Standard through collaboration with an advisory board consisting of community stakeholders. The Self Sufficiency Standard is based on what it costs for families to live without any public or private subsidies. Much of the data to figure out the costs came from MAG and other data sources. Ms. Hudgins emphasized that this is a no frills budget, with no extra discretionary items included such as movies or other forms of entertainment.

The Self Sufficiency Standard is based on national, state and local cost data and takes into account taxes, tax credits and subsidies and is very community specific. The main variation is the housing cost. As many as 24 other states use the standard as a benchmark for evaluation, a tool for counseling, and a guideline for wage setting. With the Standard, we will be able to say to policy makers that we know it takes a single parent to make approximately \$15 per hour to make ends meet.

As a career counselor, the Self Sufficiency Standard can be used to determine the cost of living on a case by case basis. While working with clients they can determine what types of support or subsidies a client has and then subtract that from the wage that it will take to meet their basic needs. Employees in low wage jobs can also use it as a benchmark to get increases in salary.

The Arizona Standard is being created by an advisory committee consisting of human services providers, businesses, education, etc. The group began meeting this summer to draft charts of various scenarios of family needs. The advisory committee is hoping for a release date of March 2002. Ms. Hudgins stated that she hoped the standard will begin to be used to determine policy on increasing resources and livable wages in the future.

Ms. Hudgins opened the floor for comment. Ms. Cordova asked if it was possible to adjust the indicators for instance if the economy continues to decline. Ms. Hudgins noted that once the basic categories are documented it is fairly simple to make changes.

Councilmember Martinez inquired about plans to have Governor Hull learn about the Standard. Ms. Hudgins stated that they will be working diligently to get the standard into the public mainstream as soon as possible. Chairman Pettycrew thanked her for briefing us on the Self Sufficiency Standard.

Chairman Pettycrew opened the floor for discussion and requested feedback on:

Councilmember Martinez inquired if statistics on types of jobs and an average wage per industry are available. Mr. Anderson verified that there are factors on economic employment, wage data and wage distribution on the DES website. This is key to getting people into jobs that have more upward potential. For instance if a job starts at \$8 per hour and tops out at \$12 per hour versus a job that starts at \$8 per hour and tops out at \$10 per hour.

Ms. Jertson stated she was struck that 75% of people are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Ms. Hudgins stated that unemployment insurance benefits and the policies that surround it should be improved. Ms. Sandra Reagan asked if we could work out a units per service and advocate to bring the contract cost up. The goal is to help people to get to 12 dollars an hour. Ms. Hudgins stated that this is a tool that can be used to show that the poverty level is insufficient and to advocate for more livable wage policies.

Chairman Pettycrew added that we have homes that are empty part of the year and how does that factor in? Mr. Lorenzo Aguirre said that there is the added stress of grandparents being put into the position of raising children.

4. Historical Perspective of MAG HSCC/TC Accomplishments

Ms. Suzanne Quigley, MAG Program Manager gave a presentation on the history of MAG Human Services Planning and Accomplishment. She referred to the Human Services timeline provided by staff as a guide for her presentation. MAG Human Services activities started in the 1970's. Ms. Quigley pointed out some of the methods that staff use to use before computer technology. For instance, funding recommendations were submitted in pen.

Ms. Quigley went on to highlight Committee activities as listed on the timeline provided. Tasks included:

- 1976 DES awarded MAG to officially plan for Title XX funds in the region
- 1981 MAG Published the first regional human services plan
ADOT request MAG to facilitate 5310 EPDT Program. This year it is expected to bring \$2.5 million in capitol funding of vans to social service agencies
- 1994 MAG Youth Policy Advisory Committee works with local jurisdictions to establish model graffiti and curfew ordinances
- 1998 MAG Human Service Coordinating Committee convenes a special subcommittee on Domestic Violence resulting in development of a plan and the MAG Domestic Violence Council
- 2000 MAG Human Services Committee urges MAG Regional Council to assume responsibility for the Homeless Continuum of Care process which involves submitting the yearly HUD application for the region.

MAG Human Services Coordinating and Technical Committees assist with securing \$1M in TANF funds to supplant the decreases in SSBG funding in the region

MAG Human Services Coordinating and Technical Committees begins the Elderly Mobility Initiative

Ms. Quigley also discussed some challenges of the Committee in looking ahead. Challenges include:

- SSBG funding cuts from the federal level
- Limitations on use of TANF funds
- Elimination of key data sources
- Finding new ways to gather and elicit public input
- Participation from a broader range of representatives across the region.

Ms. Quigley reported that the Committee has a lot of vacancies right now. She included that the Committee needs to review the bylaws and reconsider the participants the Committee needs to have at the table. Mr. Steve Wise emphasized the importance of keeping the public officials involved. We really need to have local policy makers during the process.

Chairman Pettycrew stated that a primary goal of the Committee should be to improve the attendance record this year. He stated that he will work with MAG staff to develop a letter to both members and potential new members to increase elected official involvement.

Chairman Pettycrew asked Margot Cordova to provide instructions on what the group will be doing in the break out session.

5. Break Out Sessions

- Report Out of Break Out Session A – How We Assess and Prioritize Needs
(**See Attachment**)
- Report Out of Break Out Session B – Increasing membership and revise composition
(**See Attachment**)

The Ad Hoc Structure Group will convene to review results of both the break out sessions and bring forth recommendations for addressing each issue over the next year.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.